

**Mental Health Oversight Advisory Council Meeting Summary**  
**May 10, 2007**  
**Potter's House, Presbyterian Church**  
**Helena**

Members Present: Jacob Wagner, Mignon Waterman, Don Harr, Barbara Hogg, Suzanne Hopkins, Jim Fitzgerald, Tom Peluso, Joyce DeCunzo, Tammara Nauts, Kathleen Nelson, Jo Shipman, Esther Kramer, Gary Popiel, Joan Daly, Marty Onishuk, Bob Jahner

Other Participants: Carl Seilstad (for Bill Kennedy), Dan Deutschman (for Pam Koeplin)

Excused Members: Gerald Pease, Dan Weinberg, Gary Hamel, Mary Dalton, Frank Podobnik, Karen Ward

Guests: Natalie Boland, Russ Meyers

Staff Present: Lou Thompson, Rita Pickering, Karin Billings, Carol Davidson, Marcia Armstrong

March meeting summary was approved with the following corrections: Jo Shipman was excused and the correct spelling is Pam Helms.

Development Committee business: (Don Harr)

The bylaw change in Article 5, Section 1b under committees was approved. See attached approved bylaws.

Nominations and elections were conducted. The new chair and vice-chair are Jim Fitzgerald and Karen Ward, respectively.

As of this date, Joan Miles has not nominated the new members to the Council. There were several applications received for consideration. The committee sent a list to Joan for approval. The terms will begin July 1, 2007. The council members that have chosen not to request reappointment are: Tammara Nauts, Don Harr, and Barbara Hogg.

AMDD Report: (Joyce DeCunzo)

Eli Lily offered to provide lunch for the council. The council had a great deal of discussion about the appropriateness of accepting the offer. The council determined not to accept the offer and thanked Eli Lily for the generous offer.

SHIP from Senior and Long Term Care Division has received their renewal grant. They are required to spend 5% of the grant on outreach to persons with mental illness. The Council discussed possibilities to collaborate with Senior and Long Term Care. Suggestions include: tie information from the conference on Older Persons and Mental

Illness which Karen Ward attended on behalf of the Council; and collaborate with the Home and Community Based Waiver. If anyone has suggestions please contact Marcia Armstrong.

The new HB 2 is online along with the Yellow Book which deals only with general fund. HB 2 for the Special Session is the original HB 2 and the subcommittee recommendations and an across the board cut was applied to most proposals. Following is AMDD's proposed budget (these are not exact dollar amounts):

- Suicide Prevention remains the same at \$800,000.
- Provider rate increase was decreased.
- Direct care staff increase is proposed to be funded by only I-149 funds which is tobacco settlement funds. These funds can only be used for Medicaid.
- Behavioral Health Inpatient Facility (BHIF) is at \$3 million and one time only funds.
- Mental health center drop in centers which also includes peer support services is at \$372,000
- Mentally Ill Offenders services is at \$371,000
- Mentally Ill Offenders pharmacy benefits stayed the same at \$950,000
- MHSP is at \$2.6 million annually
- Chemical Dependency is at \$2 million annually
- All of the other previous packages such as 72 hour presumptive eligibility and community mental health are still in the new HB 2.

This will be introduced today and it is hoped the session will be completed by Saturday.

#### Health Resources Division: (Karin Billings)

HB 2 still has the increase in the match for Systems of Care Grant, CHIP received a decrease (the FPL will be 175%), and the provider rate and direct care increase will also impact the Division.

The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) grant which will keep children in their community will start in Billings. A director will be hired by July 1. The Children's Mental Health Bureau is in the process of applying for the waiver. It is anticipated that services will be up and running by October.

The Systems of Care grant federal funds will be decreased by 2008 and the general fund match will increase dramatically.

#### Individual Development Accounts (IDA): Lou Thompson and Joan Daly

Attended training on implementing IDA program in states. A plan was developed and each person has assignments. They will meet in one month. The IDA concept is to allow persons with disability to accumulate assets while not jeopardizing benefits. The assets are limited.

#### Mental Health Services Bureau Update: (Lou Thompson)

The HCBS waiver is up and running in all three communities. In Great Falls three are enrolled and 9 pending; Billings has six enrolled and 11 pending; and Butte has one enrolled. The Butte site has had a difficult time hiring a nurse for the program. This waiver is focused on rehabilitation and recovery. Persons with dementia and Alzheimer are not eligible for the waiver.

The Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) request for proposal is out on the Department of Administration website. The proposals are due June 11<sup>th</sup>. It is estimated that \$358,000 will be available for contracts.

The Olmstead grant is available for another three years for \$20,000 annually. The Olmstead grant has funded the strength based case management training, and Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) facilitator trainings. It is anticipated these funds will continue funding recovery focused activities.

The reporting of recovery markers by case managers will be mandatory by July 1. Training will be done at local sites the months of May and June.

The Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) will be conducting a site visit to Montana, July 23-27. The Council is scheduled to meet with the site reviewers on Thursday, July 26 from 11:00 to 1:00 pm. Council members are encouraged to attend either personally or by MetNet. **Please contact Marcia Armstrong as soon as possible if you would like to participate by MetNet.**

ADRT data was made available with a discussion of what kind of data the Council would like to receive. The Council would like the total population, total forensic population, and admissions by all counties. A key with the acronyms and what they mean would be helpful.

#### Ombudsman Report: (Brian Garrity)

Brian is the interim Ombudsman until one is appointed by the Governor, July 1. Ellen Cox is temporary part-time until June 30. Access to services seems to be the number one issue this past year. There are persons sitting in jail and prison that are ready for release but cannot access services. The pre-release centers are not required to provide mental health services. It is hoped this will change the next fiscal year. Please see report.

#### **Task Force Reports**

##### Peer Services: (Kathleen Nelson and Suzanne Hopkins)

A number of persons have been trained as a peer support specialist but there are not enough jobs for the persons trained. The biggest obstacle appears to be providers who do not want to hire a peer specialist as their colleague.

The Montana State Hospital has two peer support specialists on staff. They are getting more patients stopping by to talk to them. They have had to extend their office hours to accommodate the increase.

Would like to suggest that the Recovery grants require employing peer support specialists or at the very least given extra incentives if they include peer support specialists.

#### Corrections; (Jo Shipman)

The issues are the need for additional psychiatric support in the prison, better communication between the community placements and the correctional facility upon discharge, and more law enforcement training in the community.

MACo is attempting to get mental health training added to the continuing education and basic training for law enforcement. This is a risk management issue. Community Intervention Training (CIT) has been conducted in Helena and Billings. It is hoped that Missoula will be able to provide CIT for the western part of the state.

#### Crisis Services: (Joan Daly)

A response to their letter has not been received from Joan Miles.

The general consensus of the group was that Montana has not seen any progress in crisis services. Need to look at the legitimate barriers and make a cultural shift at the community and state level. Crisis should not be a “norm” in the community. Crisis services are not system wide they are in pockets of Montana; need to look at what is needed to make crisis services available statewide. Need to look at what is working and duplicate that.

There is considerable overlap between the Corrections and Crisis Services letters. Need to look at the commonality between the two task force letters.

Need to appoint a representative to serve on the Department of Corrections Advisory Council.

#### Block Grant Committee: (Bob Jahner)

The three themes that came from the Two Worlds... visioning in March were:

- Where ever you see "one stop" language you know grass roots straight forward access to the system needs work. Hospital, mental health center, crisis center . . . where do I go if I need help?
- All the components talk about public education and stigma reduction. The events of the past month can't have helped but highlight that important theme

- Related but also a distinct conversation in all the groups was the "prevention" theme. Early intervention, education, stigma reduction and genuine knowledge will reduce the crisis to which we must respond.

The time frame for the block grant is the following:

- ✓ First draft out June 29 – Council will receive week of July 2
- ✓ Comments due back July 13
- ✓ Final draft out July 23
- ✓ Site Visit for block grant is July 24-27
- ✓ Council meeting August 2-3 for final review and comments

A letter from the Billings LAC was discussed. The letter requested a response by the Council. Letter will be sent to all council members to review and send comments to Marcia or Mignon.

**Fond farewells were given from Barbara Hogg and Don Harr.** Their energy and efforts have been very appreciated by the Council, public mental health system and the staff. Jacob and Mignon have requested to be reappointed to the Council. Mignon reminded the Council to use their authority to set a vision and get things done. The Council needs to gather as one strong voice.

Having completed all the business of the Council the meeting was adjourned.